

The **monthly** branch newsletter of **railfuture** in London and the South East

Britain's leading *independent* campaign for a bigger better railway for passengers and freight

London rail trio coming to fruition

On a scale of active Railfuture campaigning, the three range from actively engaged to passively observing!



The latter first, namely the new southbound platform and concourse at London Underground's Northern line Bank station, which opened to passengers on Monday 16 May, has been a project which we've been aware of and welcomed but not been actively engaged with.

The second, what was Crossrail operated by TfL Rail and became the Elizabeth line on Tuesday 24 May, although still in three separate services, has had one of the longest-running rail development histories. Members of Railfuture and its predecessors in title have played a role in championing its cause across the decades it's taken to (nearly) complete the project.

Last but by no means least and also in late-May, the Barking Riverside Extension has carried its first London Overground train on test. Railfuture has actively supported the development of this project, in particular with our consultation responses in June 2015 and October 2016, and attendance at the Public Inquiry later in October 2016 to examine unresolved objections to the application for an Order under the Transport & Works Act.

Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: happy birthdays in June

- ~ on the 3rd, Mitcham Eastfields station, in 2008 (L)
- ~ on the 3rd, Meridian Water station, in 2019 (R)

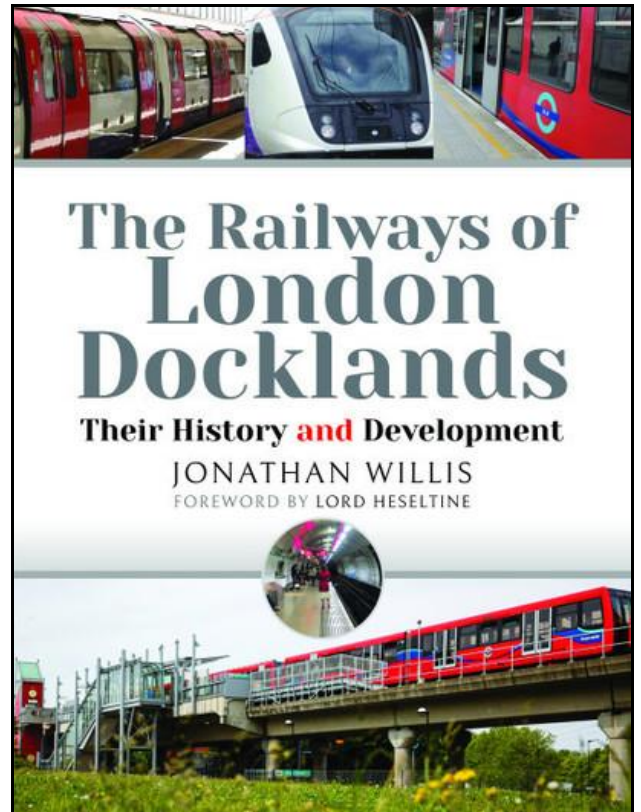


- ~ on the 23rd, Heathrow Airport Junction <-> Heathrow Terminal 4 via Terminals 1, 2 & 3, in 1998
- ~ on the 23rd, Heathrow Terminals 1, 2 & 3 station (later Terminals 2 & 3, now Heathrow Central), in 1998
- ~ on the 23rd, Heathrow Terminal 4 station, in 1998
- ~ on the 26th, Hitchin 'Down Cambridge' flyover, 2013.

Our vision for rail: A railway system that provides services which travellers and freight forwarders want to use, and which offers more journey opportunities to more people and more freight.

And now for something different ...

A first for *inter-railse*, in recognition of the contribution to London rail development by one of its 'gentle giants.'



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Jon Willis commenced his career as an engineer with London Underground. After obtaining an MSc in transport planning he worked for the Greater London Council and on its demise for London Transport and its successor Transport for London. As Head of Strategy and Planning he was responsible for the planning and evaluation of Croydon Tramlink, four Docklands Light Railway projects, the Jubilee Line Extension and as Head of Planning, for the Crossrail / Elizabeth line.

What shall we be doing this month?

- ~ running our "*Bridge the gap*" campaign stall at Uckfield & District Lions Club's Jubilee Picnic.
- ~ our representatives participating in meetings of the Steering Groups of Southeast CRP for the Tonbridge Redhill and Reigate line, the Uckfield and East Grinstead lines, the MarshLink line, and the 1066 line.
- ~ holding regular **online** meetings of our Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions.
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-May edition of *inter-railse* no.47, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members have, amongst various other activities:

- ~ contributed to an **online** meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East.
- ~ participated in an alternate-monthly **online** meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.
- ~ contributed to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.
- ~ held regular **online** meetings of our Eastern, Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions, plus an in-person meeting of our Kent Division in Faversham to coincide with the Faversham Transport Festival.
- ~ contributed to an **online** meeting of Transport for the South East's Transport Forum reviewing the process for consultation on the draft Strategic Investment Plan.
- ~ held regional Branch committee meetings **online**.

Also during May, regional branch committee has:

- ~ noted Lewes District Council's Planning Committee's rejection of a fourth application for outline planning permission in part of the gap between Ringmer and Broyle Side, for up to 68 homes on the same site as was refused by members last year for up to 97 homes.

All Railfuture submissions can be found [here](#)

Our vision for Railfuture: *An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

Accessible stations to improve inclusivity

[DfT's nationwide station accessibility audit](#) has passed 1000 of the over 2500 stations in Britain, and is due to complete by March 2023, a year before the start of Control Period 7 and additional Access for All funding.

Coronavirus insight

Confidence about feeling safe when using trains, in relation to Covid-19, has continued to rise, now up to 90% of rail users and to 75% among non-rail users who would feel safe if they had to make a train journey. Source: Transport Focus weekly [Tracking Research](#).

This branch e-newsletter is free, published monthly and distributed to branch members with their GDPR consent. Items for our newsletters, and our branch Local Action column in *railwatch*, to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk



Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for Britain's railway and rail users

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Sunday 5 June Railfuture L&SE "Bridge the gap" campaign stall at Uckfield & District Lions Club's Jubilee Picnic.

Thursday 9 June Sussex & Coastway Division evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Friday 10 June Closing date for nominations for the third *Railfuture Campaigner of the Year* award.

Saturdays/Sundays 11/12, 18/19, 25/26 June Service alterations / suspensions for track-works on Gospel Oak-Barking and London Liverpool Street-Cheshunt lines.

Tuesday 14 June Herts & Beds Division evening meeting **online**. [Invite non-members!](#)

Monday 20 June Start of 12-week public consultation by Transport for the South East on their draft Strategic Investment Plan.

Saturday 25 June Railfuture East Anglia branch afternoon open meeting, Ipswich. All welcome.

Monday 27 June Closing date for applications to Great Western Railway's Community Fund.

Tuesday 28 June Community Rail Partnership Showcase, Southampton.

Tuesday 5 July Transport for the South East conference, Guildford.

Tuesday 5 July Closing date for representations to Planning Inspectorate for appeal on Ringmer gap site.

Saturday 9 July Railfuture L&SE "Bridge the gap" campaign stall at Uckfield Festival's Big Day. 10.00-16.00. On Luxford Field, via Civic Approach or Library Way off High Street, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1AL.

Saturday 16 July Railfuture national AGM. Venue: close to Bristol Parkway station.

Saturday 16 July After the AGM, presentations for Railfuture's 8th Rail User Group Awards and the 3rd Railfuture Campaigner of the Year.

Thursday 21 July Joint L&SE, Wessex, and Thames Valley branches' **online** meeting with speaker invited from TfSE on the draft Strategic Investment Plan.

Full details in our [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) web pages.